

## **Historic, Archive Document**

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



# THE MODEL FARMSTEAD

OR

## PLANS FOR THE FARM HOME

By E. C. HILBORN, SECRETARY

### THE NORTHWEST NURSERY CO.,

VALLEY CITY, NORTH DAKOTA

The great prairie of the Northwest is passing. Thru the car window, the Dakota traveler sees on every hand, thrifty groves of trees that have grown up to shelter and beautify the farmer's home. This is especially true of all of the older sections of the Dakotas. The farmer from Iowa, in search of cheaper land is often surprised to find better arranged groves than he left behind. The Dakota farmer who was wise enough to plant years ago, is now able to reap the benefit of the higher price for his land, that is always paid for the farm with a good grove of trees.

Recently a real-estate agent in Eddy County was trying to sell a farm to a couple from Iowa. He offered several different farms—prices ranged from forty to fifty dollars per acre. But they were attracted by a farm, whose buildings were sheltered by an exceptionally fine grove and along whose driveway was a splendid grove of trees. It looked like home to them. It was the farm they wanted. The wife said she could live there and be contented. They bought the farm at \$72.00 per acre. The trees had paid for themselves during the years they had sheltered the man who planted them. They did not owe him a dollar, yet they brought at least \$25.00 for every acre in the entire farm when he was ready to retire. Any land man knows that a good grove will always sell a farm at a big price.

#### MAKE A PLAN

One should adopt a plan for the grounds. When a man builds a new house he has a plan carefully drawn up. This avoids mistakes and waste. When completed he has the results he wishes. In the same way a plan should be carefully worked out for all plantings. Then make the planting each spring a part of the plan. The following discussion is intended as a guide to planters in planning their Farm Home and to aid them in avoiding common mistakes.

The first need of the Dakota planter is to provide a shelter belt for his buildings, a belt of trees that will stop the heavy winds that sweep over these prairies. He wants a belt that even in the winter, when the trees have lost their leaves, will break the force of the blizzard, and hold back the driving snow. Experience has proved that the right arrangement provides for four distinct parts.—

First—A snowfence. Second—An open snowtrap. Third—A high background Fourth—A substantial grove of the best and most dependable trees.

THE SNOWFENCE—Three good rows of close growing bushy trees are required to completely stop the heavy driving snows that sometimes sweep over the prairie. The first or outside row should be some heavy hedge plant that grows from

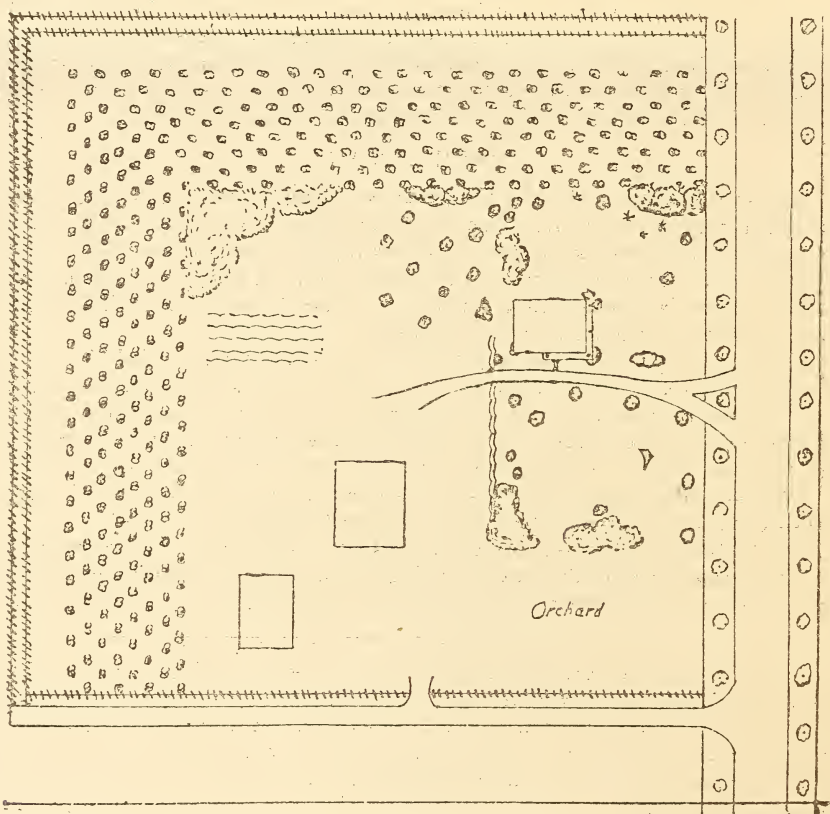
---

A badly arranged system of planting may be a positive detriment, because of the accumulation of snowdrifts about the buildings and in the orchard. On the other hand, trees may be so arranged as to prevent the piling of the snow about the buildings and to provide for the right amount of snow among the small fruits and in the orchards.—Prof. C. B. Waldron, Bulletin 88, Windbreaks and Hedges, Agricultural College, N. D.

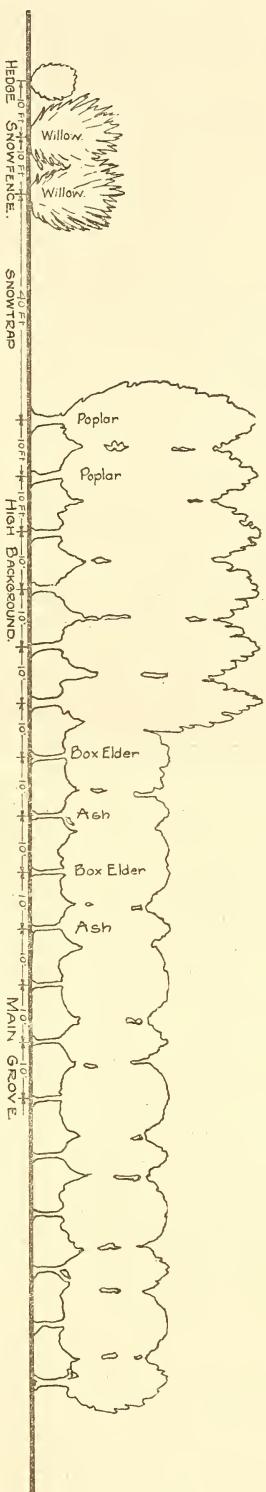
the ground up, and that will also add beauty and finish to the grove. An ideal plant for this is URAL HEDGEWOOD. ARTEMESIA is especially fine for the drier sections, such as Western Dakota and Montana, and CARAGANA is considered by many, the finest of all. LAUREL WILLOW may also be used for first row effectively. The SECOND TWO ROWS should be dense, heavy growing hedges. The ideal plant for this is the LAUREL WILLOW. If trimmed back from time to time, it continues to produce masses of glossy, dark, olive-green leaves. It does not thrive in low places however, and hence the RUSSIAN GOLDEN WILLOW is better suited to the Red River Valley and similar locations. (A fourth row of either RUSSIAN GOLDEN or WHITE WILLOW is desirable to add height if one can spare the room.) Plant strong, well-rooted whips of each variety three feet apart in the row, and cut them back to one foot above the ground. This will cause them to send out a number of strong side shoots. These three rows together will make a heavy, vigorous windbreak. They also prevent the drying surface winds from sweeping through the other trees and drying out the grove. They will also pile up the snow and keep it back from the buildings. Then in the spring the water from the melting of this snow will run off into the other trees and insure a heavy soaking every spring. If cultivation is started early, this moisture may be retained to feed the grove throughout the summer.

SNOWTRAP—Forty feet of open space should be left next to the snowfence to catch the drifting snows. This makes a fine location for an alfalfa field for the snow-water assures a good start in the spring and the meadow appearance adds beauty to the grove.

## MODEL FARMSTEAD



# NORTHWEST NURSERY CO.'S PLAN OF SHELTER BELT FOR NORTHWEST FARMSTEADS



**HIGH BACK GROUND**—Every planter desires a tree that will grow rapidly and make a big showing in the least possible time. The **NORWAY POPLAR** is the universal favorite. The Poplars grow rapidly, often six or seven feet in a season is not uncommon, and in a few short years become good sized trees. This makes a high background for the rest of the shade trees of the grove. The Norway Poplar is giving way in the northern and western sections to the **CANADIAN POPLARS**, where the demand is felt for a hardier and more rugged tree. The Canadian Poplar is also a rapid grower and never winter kills. It has proven its hardness in northwestern Montana on the foothills of the Rockies. Six rows of these rapid growing Poplars will give the entire grove a much larger effect. Besides this they have few lower branches, and the drifting snow from the willows will do them little harm where it would spoil branched trees. Don't crowd the Poplars. Give them plenty of room and never mix them among other trees. Their roots run along the surface and steal food and moisture from each other. Six rows, eight feet apart in the row, will be sufficient and close enough together.

**THE GROVE PROPER**—Next to the high Poplars should come the regular belt of trees. These are the trees that will be the final and permanent shelter belt for your buildings from the storm and which will furnish cooling shade in summer. The best trees for this are the Green Ash when planted alternately with the Box Elder. The Green Ash is a hard wood and undoubtedly our one best tree. When



planted so that it has the protection of the Box Elder, in ten years time it will begin to pass the Box Elder in height. It thrives with shade and cultivation, and it likes forest conditions. It will continue to grow steadily even after the Box Elder has been cut down. The Box Elder grow more quickly when young, make an early showing and are splendid nurse trees. Much beauty and finish will be added to the entire grove if a row or two rows of Evergreens are planted inside of the main grove. One row of Bull Pine and one row of black Hill Spruce would be an ideal planting. They would thrive in the moist forest condition produced by the grove.

The rapidity of growth of all trees depends very largely upon the development of forest conditions. By forest conditions we mean freedom from wind and the sun, and with damp shaded surface. The shade from this grove of trees and the wind protection from the two belts of willows will produce these necessary forest conditions. The larger the belt of trees the better they will conserve the moisture, and hence the more rapid will be the growth. When the Box Elders and Ash are planted as in a grove, they will shoot upward and outward, ever reaching for light, and in a few years will become a grove or park that will be the pride of the planter. These willows and grove will protect your home against fierce cold northwestern winters and the hot, drying winds of summer. The snow will lie as it falls on the ground instead of being piled in drifts around the buildings. You will not be obliged to shovel your way to the barn every morning to do the chores. The feeling will grow that this protected area is different from the surrounding prairies and that this little world is your own.

After the windbreak is planted, you can turn your attention to the plantings that will make for beauty and fruitfulness. On the inside corner of the grove is an excellent place to plant a thicket or clump of choke cherries and wild plums. These trees are native to the State and will thrive if planted where there is moisture. The melting snows from the grove will give the necessary moisture and insure their growth. They will produce a wealth of fragrant blossoms in the spring. In the summer they will produce fruit which can be used in many ways. Around the yard and lawn should be planted some good sized shade trees. These should be well selected specimens of Elm, Soft Maple, Box Elder and Green Ash. Don't plant them in straight lines as in the grove. Arrange one or two large Elms to shade the porch if possible. Scatter the shade trees over the lawn in an easy, natural way. There are a number of trees that are hardy and will grow successfully in this climate and may be used in the yard for variety. Among these may be mentioned the Birch, Hackberry, Mountain Ash, Linden, and Black Cherry.

There is a large list of hardy shrubs that grow successfully throughout the Northwest. These are easier to grow than the trees. Plant a quantity of these along the border of the grove. The accumulated moisture will make them thrive, and they will look as if they were native to the woods. Other shrubs should be planted near the porch and the corners of the house. Always plant several shrubs near together for the protection they give one another. This is the natural way for them to grow, and they thrive accordingly. It keeps out the sod and accumulates moisture. Spirea, Tartarian Honeysuckle, Caragana, High Bush Cranberry, Syringa, Redtwigged Dogwood, and Lilac are all hardy on the Northwest prairies if properly handled. The Persian Lilac is perhaps our finest shrub. Woodbine and the common Clematis are hardy climbers that will cover the porch with but little attention. Woodbine furnishes the autumnal coloring we miss in the Maples.

When one considers the large array of hardy trees and shrubs that will grow and thrive in the Northwest, there appears to be little excuse for living on the open and exposed prairie. Instead of offering excuses to our family for living in such an uninviting spot, we can arouse their pride in their pleasant country home. We can have a home that is worth while. We can enjoy the trees, the shrubs and flowers as well here as we did way down east. And perhaps even more, for there is a greater joy and pride in what we ourselves have builded. The planting season is almost here. Now is the time to lay your plans around the family table, and when the time arrives—plant trees!